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Jack Anderson Column Is Found 'Inaccurate'

NEW YORK, Feb. 5 (AP) — The National News Council said today a syndicated Jack Anderson column entitled "The Torture Graduates" made biased and inaccurate use of quotations from source letters.

Accuracy in Media, a Washington-based group, had filed the complaint against the column with the National News Council, a private organization that investigates allegations against the national news media.

The column, which appeared in The Washington Post Aug. 3, 1974, asserted that "students at the International Police Academy, a school run by the State Department to train foreign policemen, have developed some chilling views about torture tactics."

Accuracy in Media charged that statements from papers written by five students at the academy were taken out of context to support the assertion.

The council said members of its staff examined the five papers and "found that the quotations by Anderson do in fact misrepresent the attitude of the students toward torture as set forth in their papers." The papers were written in

1965-67, a fact that was not mentioned in the column, the council findings said.

Anderson said in a letter dated Dec. 30 that the statements in the column were supported by sources whose identity he could not reveal. The council said that if support exists, it was Anderson's responsibility to develop and publish it.

Anderson could not be reached for comment on the council's findings. However, reporter Joseph Spear, who researched the story, said, "We think they are absolutely wrong. They have not yet done a thorough job. We feel justified in what we wrote."

0291 NATIONAL News
Council
0291 Accuracy in
Media

P-Spear, Joseph